

City of Long Beach
Working Together to Serve

Memorandum

Date: May 18, 2016

To: Patrick H. West, City Manager *T.M.*

From: Amy J. Bodek, Director of Development Services *AJB*

For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: **Human Relations Commission Recommendation to City Council that the City of Long Beach Denounce the North Carolina Public Facilities Privacy & Security Act ("HB2") and Mississippi House Bill 1523**

The Human Relations Commission (HRC) would like to submit the attached letter to the Mayor and City Council recommending that the City of Long Beach denounce the North Carolina Public Facilities Privacy & Security Act ("HB2") and Mississippi House Bill 1523, and suspend all non-essential travel to the State of North Carolina and Mississippi.

As the principle advisory commission promoting peace, tolerance, acceptance and mutual respect, the HRC supports this recommendation that addresses discrimination against the transgender and LGBTQ community.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please call Tracy Colunga, Neighborhood Relations Officer, at (562) 570-4413.

AJB:TC:TG:BP
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ATTACHMENT

CC: CHARLES PARKIN, CITY ATTORNEY
LAURA L. DOUD, CITY AUDITOR
TOM MODICA, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
ARTURO SANCHEZ, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
REBECCA JIMENEZ, ASSISTANT TO THE CITY MANAGER
ROBERT M. ZUR SCHMIEDE, INTERIM DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT
TRACY COLUNGA, NEIGHBORHOOD RELATIONS OFFICER

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

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Miles McNeeley, Vice Chair
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Nikole Cababa, Member
Veronica Quincy, Member
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Steve Gallagher, Member

May 17, 2016

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
City of Long Beach
333 W. Ocean Boulevard, 14th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802

Re: Recommendation to City Council that the City of Long Beach Denounce the North Carolina Public Facilities Privacy & Security Act ("HB2") and Mississippi House Bill 1523, and suspend all non-essential travel to the State of North Carolina and Mississippi

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council:

The Human Relations Commission (Commission) has been informed of two recent incidents that have occurred in Long Beach involving individuals that were targeted based on their perceived gender or transgender identity. The first incident involved a transgender man who has filed a civil complaint against Hawleywood's Barber Shop at 2234 E. 4th Street. The plaintiff alleged that the barber shop refused him service because he is transgender. The second case was the violent attack and stabbing of a transgender woman on March 20, 2016. The two assailants in this case have already been convicted and sentenced to prison with additional hate crime enhancements.

In light of these recent events, the Commission is deeply concerned about the dignity, safety, and wellbeing of transgender persons in Long Beach. To put this issue in a broader context, the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations 2014 Hate Crime Report states that there were 15 gender-based hate crimes reported to their agency. Of those, all were committed against transgender women and 93% were of a violent nature.

Nationally, the State of North Carolina recently passed House Bill 2, called The Public Facilities Privacy & Security Act ("HB2"). The bill was passed in response to anti-transgender sentiment following a city ordinance that allowed for individuals to use bathrooms that correspond with their gender identity. "HB2" prohibits local governments from passing anti-discrimination laws to protect a range of groups. A growing list of municipalities, including the

cities of San Francisco, Portland, Seattle and New York have instituted travel bans to North Carolina to demonstrate solidarity with the LGBTQ community.

More recently, the State of Mississippi passed a law (House Bill 1523) allowing people with religious objections to refuse services to same-sex couples. The law also permits employers to use their religious beliefs to justify discriminatory workplace policies, such as grooming, dress code, and locker and bathroom access. As with North Carolina, municipalities throughout the country have initiated travel restrictions to Mississippi while the law remains in its current form.

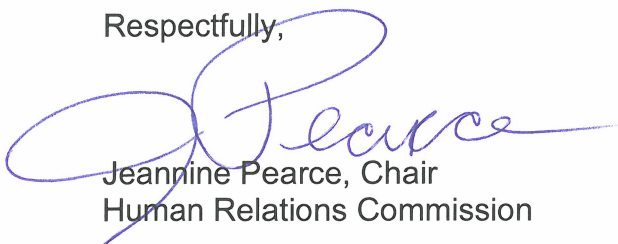
The Commission's purpose and function is "to promote good will...in order to maintain civic pride and tranquility and enhance and improve mutual understanding and respect for all citizens of the community. To furnish the opportunity for the promotion and encouragement of positive human relations among citizens, groups and institutions and to consider, promote and develop programs for the reduction of tension, conflict, or violence which may arise from intolerance, prejudice and discrimination based upon race, religion, national origin, age, gender, sexual orientation or physical or mental disability."

The Commission believes it is imperative that we implement official policy to reinforce the notion that all members in our community are deserving of respect and dignity. As the Long Beach City Council's principle advisory commission promoting peace, tolerance, and mutual respect, the Commission submits to the Long Beach City Council the following recommendation:

In demonstrating solidarity with the local and national LGBTQ community, the City of Long Beach will suspend all non-essential travel to the State of North Carolina and Mississippi until the repeal of their respective anti-LGBTQ laws. Additionally, we advise the City Council to send a signed letter from the Mayor and/or City Council to the Governors of each state opposing each respective bill and informing them of the City of Long Beach's travel sanction.

We believe that these actions will firmly reinforce the belief that Long Beach is a city embracing diversity, tolerance, and acceptance.

Respectfully,



Jeannine Pearce, Chair
Human Relations Commission